

2SHB 2449 - H AMD 1147

By Representative Dunn

FAILED 2/15/2008

1 On page 13, after line 22, insert the following:

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3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter
4 43.215 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) There is hereby created an ombudsman for child care
6 providers within the department for the purpose of identifying
7 system issues and responses for the governor and the legislature to
8 act upon, and monitoring and ensuring the department's compliance
9 with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies
10 pertaining to licensing of child care providers. The ombudsman
11 shall report directly to the governor and shall exercise his or her
12 powers and duties independently of the director of the department.

13 (2) The ombudsman shall perform the following duties:

14 (a) Provide information as appropriate on the rights and
15 responsibilities of child care providers;

16 (b) Investigate, upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt
17 of a complaint, an administrative act alleged to be contrary to
18 law, rule, or policy, imposed without an adequate statement of
19 reason, or based on irrelevant, immaterial, or erroneous grounds;
20 however, the ombudsman may decline to investigate any complaint as
21 provided by rules adopted under this chapter;

22 (c) Act as an advocate for child care providers in disputes
23 between the department and the provider;

24 (d) Monitor the procedures established, implemented, and
25 practiced by the department to carry out its responsibilities in
26 licensing child care providers;

27 (e) Recommend changes in the procedures for addressing the
28 needs of child care providers; and

29 (f) Submit annually to appropriate legislative committees and
30 to the governor by November 1 a report analyzing the work of the
31 ombudsman including recommendations."

1 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal
2 references accordingly.

3 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Creates an ombudsman for child care providers. Requires the ombudsman to: provide information on provider rights and responsibilities; investigate administrative acts alleged to be contrary to law; act as an advocate for providers; monitor and recommend changes in the Department of Early Learning's licensing procedures; and report annually to the Legislature and the Governor.